

MINUTES
WEST HARTFORD BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL, OUTSIDE IN OVAL

The meeting of the West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:05 pm on Monday, May, 11 2015. Approximately 25 people were in attendance.

Scott stated that the May 12, 2015 Town Council discussion of the Complete Streets Policy has been tabled. This matter has been sent back the Community Planning Committee which will meet on May 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the West Hartford Town Hall.

1. The following reports were received from the Bike West Hartford, Inc. Task Forces:
 - a. Ken and Jamie reported on the Master Bike Plan. They are looking for additional volunteers to staff this committee. Joe and Mary agreed to assist.
 - b. Dan and Kevin reported on the Bike Routes and Bike Lanes Subcommittee. Kevin and his committee had a very constructive meeting with Town Staff to discuss various bicycle routes through town. Fern was identified as a major east/west bike thoroughfare. According to Duane's report, the Town has appropriated funds to stripe Fern Street to create a shoulder on each side for bicycles. Kevin also reported that his committee cycled the entire proposed route of the Trout Brook Trail and the Committee believes that it will be a wonderful recreational benefit to the citizens of West Hartford.
 - c. Sandy reported on the Complete Streets Policy and the revisions to the Connecticut Statute regarding cycling. Senate Bill No. 502 was recently passed which will make some significant and beneficial changes for Connecticut's cyclists.
 - d. Mary, Jeff and Daniel reported on the Bike Share Program. Although the formal Bike Share Program has been shelved temporarily as a result of liability concerns, they plan to provide information about the West Hartford Bike Share Program at Celebrate West Hartford.
 - e. Steve and Mary Ellen reported on the North Main Street Road Diet Project. The bridge project immediately to the north of American School for the deaf has been put on hold because there were no bidders for the project. This was beneficial for the West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee and Bike West Hartford, Inc. Road Diet Plan since it will permit the appointed consultant to obtain usage numbers without the impediment of road closures associated with bridge work. Steve and Mary Ellen reported that the contract has been awarded, but it has not yet been signed. It is expected that it will be signed within the next few weeks.
 - f. Laurie reported on the big event. She stated that the routes for the 10 mile, 25 mile and 50 mile rides have been set and approved by the Town of West Hartford. The Committee has worked very hard to put together this first annual ride. Sponsors are still needed as are volunteers for the event. If you want to volunteer, please email Jim at jgreen@mdmc-law.com. Also, if you would like to ride, please log on to bikewesthartford.org and follow the links to sign up. It is important that you spread the word to your friends. This is a very important event for The West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee and Bike West Hartford, Inc.
2. Scott reported on the cycling without age efforts of Lene. Lene was not able to attend the meeting but will be at the June meeting. She has made significant strides on this project and hopes to have a rickshaw bicycle in place for the Discover West Hartford Ride.
3. Scott reported on National Bike to School Day. Apparently, the only West Hartford School that participated this year was Bugbee Elementary School. We hope to get a bigger jump start on this event in 2016 and get participation from all of the elementary schools in Town.

4. Scott reported on Bike to Work Day which will be held on Friday, May 15, at 6:45 a.m. at REI in Blue Back Square. The group will meet and ride together down to the Old State House. We hope that you can attend.

5. Ethan reported on the Center Streets event. He and Ed have to follow-up with Barbara Karsky and the Town of West Hartford regarding the closure of parts of Farmington Avenue and LaSalle Road in late August for this pedestrian/cycling event. More information will be forthcoming.

6. Scott reported that there will be a league cycling instructor seminar put on by Bike Walk Connecticut on June 5, 7 and 7.

7. Kevin reported on the NACTO bikeway design workshop held on April 23 in Wethersfield. He said that it was an incredibly positive learning experience. Greg Somers from the Engineering Department was in attendance and brought back with him some great ideas for West Hartford Streets.

8. Scott reported that Lene and Ed made a presentation to the Chamber of Commerce Meeting on April 21 and received a very positive response.

9. Scott reported on the I can Bike event also known as the "Lose the Training Wheels" event scheduled for July 27- July 31 at Conard High School. Volunteers are desperately needed for this incredible event.

10. Scott reported that The West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee will have a booth and a Bike Corral at Celebrate West Hartford on June 6 and 7. The free bike corral will be located at the bottom of the stairs on Burr Street and the booth will be at the top of the stairs. Volunteers are needed to staff this event.

11. Mark McGovern reported that the bike corral has been assembled and installed on LaSalle Road on the corner of Arapahoe Road. There are additional bike racks being installed in the Center and in Blue Back Square within the next week or two.

12. Daniel reported that the website has been experiencing a significant increase in hits. We are now getting approximately 500 hits per month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott B. Franklin, Chair
West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee